

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8-22 and 34-36 were presented for consideration. The instant amendment cancels claim 8 without prejudice. Thus, claims 2-6, 9-22, and 34-36 are pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

Claims 3 and 34 are independent.

The Office Action indicates that claims 8-10, 19, and 20 are allowable.

Claim 3 has been amended to include elements of allowable claim 8. Claims 9-10 have been amended to depend from claim 3 and, not, cancelled claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2-6 and 9-22 are in condition for issuance.

In addition, independent claim 34 has been amended to include elements of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 34, as well as claims 35-36 that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

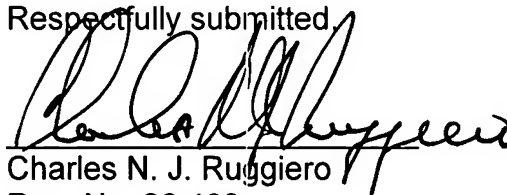
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 2-6, 8-22 and 34-36 are respectfully requested.

In the alternative, it is believed that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment at least for the purposes of appeal are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

October 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles N. J. Ruggiero", written over a horizontal line.

Charles N. J. Ruggiero

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